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# EXECUTIVE TOUR SUMMARY

## SUGGESTED EXECUTIVE TOUR SUMMARY

### Arrive and Depart from Dublin Airport

Combining Private Guided Tours with rail transport between the regions of the Ancient East and Wild West of Ireland, these tours allow flexibility to pick and choose from our day tour options with a minimum requirement of 2 day tours in each region (minimum 4 in total). See suggested Itinerary below.

### Day 1 - Touring Newgrange and Trim & Malahide Castles

Touring Newgrange, Trim Castle, Malahide Castle & Howth Head

### Day 2 - Wicklow Tour

Touring Powerscourt House and Gardens, Wicklow Mountains, Sallys Gap, Glendalough & Avoca Woolen Mills

### Day 3 - Unguided Touring Day

Suggest touring Dublin City Sights and Attractions

### Day 4 - Rail Transport Dublin to Galway

Depart Aisling Hotel and walk to nearby Heuston Train Station for train to Galway Ceannt Train Station. On arrival walk short distance to Meyrick / Park House Hotel.

### Day 5 - Touring Cliffs of Moher & Burren

Touring The Burren, Burren Centre & Perfumery, Poul nabrone Portal Dolman Tomb, Doolin & Cliffs of Moher.

### Day 6 - Touring the Connemara

Touring Kylemore Abbey, Connemara National Park, Killary Fjord, Leenane & Quiet Man Museum.

### Day 7 - Unguided Touring Day

Explore Galway City of Tribes further by foot or bike.

### Day 8 - Rail Transport back to Dublin

Depart Meyrick / Park House Hotel and walk to nearby Galway Train Station for train to Houston Train Station in Dublin. On arrival walk short distance to Aisling Hotel.

### Day 9 - Depart Dublin Airport

Transfer to Dublin Airport for flight departure

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## **Additional Touring Options**

### **Irelands Ancient East Tour Leg**

#### **Dublin City Day Tour**

Touring Trinity College, St Patricks Cathedral, National Museum of Archaeological & History, National Gallery of Ireland, Killiney & Dalkey.

#### **Studs & Castle Tour**

Touring National Stud & Japanese Gardens, Rock of Cashel, Kilkenny Medieval City & Kilkenny Castle.

#### **Belfast Day Tour**

Touring Titanic Experience & Black Taxi Political Tour.

#### **Whiskey & Brewery Road-trip, Kilbeggan, Tullamore, Jameson & Guinness Storehouse**

Touring Kilbeggan Distillery, Tullamore D.E.W. Distillery, Jameson Distillery and Guinness Storehouse.

### **West Tour Leg**

#### **Touring Clonmacnoise, Strokestown & Lake District**

Touring Clonmacnoise, Strokestown House & Famine Museum & Shannon Lake District

#### **Aran Islands Tour**

Day tour to Aran Islands

## **TRANSPORT**

4 x Days Chauffeured Guided Tour (Minimum Tour Requirement of 4 days) & Airport Transfers in Deluxe Mercedes Vehicle with leather trim, wifi and air con. Fuel, Tolls, Ferry crossings and driver/guide expenses all included. Your knowledgeable chauffeur will guide you to the best restaurants and local bars as well as informing you on all the historical facts and fables.

Return Rail Journey between Dublin Heuston Station and Galway on Irish Rails Intercity Express Service. Fast, reliable and comfortable with complimentary onboard Wi-Fi, you can send e-mails etc and you don't have to worry about losing power with 220V power point sockets at every seat. Hot snacks are available from the buffet bar carriage and stewards will pass through the train with the trolley offering a range of snacks such as sandwiches, hot and cold beverages, cakes & pastries and confectionery.

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## ACCOMMODATION

### 4 STAR ACCOMMODATION

**4 x Nights @ Aisling Hotel,** Dublin. The Aisling Hotel is in excellent locations for both seeing the city and its close proximity to Huestion Rail Station. The Luas tram passes right by the door of the hotel bringing you to the city centre in just 5 minutes. Dublin Zoo, Kilmainham Gaol, the Guinness Storehouse and Jameson Distillery are all a short walk from hotel. Flexibility is at the heart of what we do to ensure you get the very best service from our team. Get the real Irish experience through staying in a family-owned business with years of experience allowing for extraordinary service.



**4 x Nights @ Meyrick / The Park House Hotel,** Galway.

Superbly located, along Eyre Square, these hotels are recognised for excellence in both food and accommodation, as well as elegance itself and they combine Victorian grace with the best in Irish hospitality. You are within strolling distance of the best shops in Galway, theatres, bars with traditional Irish music and the many Galway restaurants of the Latin Quarter. Both Hotels are less than a 3 minute walk to the railway station.



## SUGGESTED TOUR ITINERARY

### Day 1 - Touring Newgrange and Trim & Malahide Castles

Touring Newgrange, Trim Castle, Malahide Castle & Howth Head.



Travel to The Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre in Donore, County Meath, which is an information hub for the thousands of visitors eager to explore Ireland's mysterious Neolithic monuments, **Newgrange**, Knowth and Dowth. An extensive exhibition includes a full scale replica of the chamber at Newgrange (a World Heritage site), as well as a model of one of the smaller tombs at Knowth. Located on the south side of the River Boyne, the Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre is the only access point to Newgrange and Knowth, which lie north of the river. All tours of Newgrange start at the centre, before visitors cross the river via a footbridge and are brought by shuttle bus to the monuments.

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Travel to **Trim Castle** which is Ireland's largest Anglo-Norman castle, set in the historically rich Boyne Valley. It was constructed over a thirty year period by Hugh de Lacy and his son Walter as the home of the Lordship of Meath. Trim Castle is a stunning Norman castle on the south bank of the River Boyne in Trim. The largest Anglo-Norman castle in Ireland, it was constructed in Trim over a thirty-year period by Hugh de Lacy and his son Walter. Hugh de Lacy was granted the liberty of Meath by King Henry II in 1172 in an attempt to curb the expansionist policies of Richard de Clare (Strongbow). Construction of the massive three storied keep, the central stronghold of the castle, was begun circa 1176 on the site of an earlier wooden fortress. This massive twenty sided tower, which is cruciform in shape, was protected by a ditch, curtain wall and moat.



Travel to **Malahide Castle**, which is set on 250 acres of park land in the pretty seaside town of Malahide, was both a fortress and a private home for nearly 800 years and is an interesting mix of architectural styles. A feature of Demense is the Talbot Botanic Garden. The Talbot family lived here from 1185 to 1973, when the last Talbot died. The house is furnished with beautiful period furniture together with an extensive collection of Irish portrait paintings, mainly from the National Gallery. The history of the Talbot family is recorded in the Great



Hall, where portraits of generations of the family tell their own story of Ireland's stormy history. Many additions and alterations have been made to this romantic and beautiful structure, but the contours of the surrounding parklands have changed little in 800 years, retaining a sense of the past. A major feature of Malahide Castle Demesne is the beautiful Talbot Botanic Gardens. The gardens, as they exist today, were largely created by Lord Milo Talbot between 1948 and 1973. Within the visitor centre in the courtyard, an interpretation & exhibition area tells visitors the story of the walled gardens as seen through the eyes of 'Lord Milo Talbot', the creator of the gardens and grounds as seen today.

Travel up the road to **Howth Head**, a peninsula 15km northeast of Dublin City, that has been immortalised in James Joyce's Ulysses. Howth is a bustling village that offers visitors a myriad of attractions – such as Lambay Island, Ireland's Eye, Howth Castle, The National Transport Museum, the Martello Tower and the Baily Lighthouse. Wildlife enthusiasts will adore this area, particularly Ireland's Eye and its bird sanctuary which boasts guillemots, razorbills, fulmars, gulls and gannets. If you're lucky, you may even see grey seals diving for fish just offshore. There is an option of four different walking loops to suit all levels that take in stunning views from the magnificent clifftop walk while being overwhelmed by the heady scent of coconut from the bright yellow gorse on the heath.



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## **Day 2 - Touring Glendalough & Wicklow Mountains**

Touring Powerscourt House & Gardens, Wicklow Mountains, Sallys Gap, Glendalough & Avoca Woolen Mills.

Travel through the picturesque village of Enniskerry to **Powerscourt House & Gardens** which is one of Europe's great treasures and Ireland's most famous estates. Gracing the Wicklow Mountains, 20 kilometres from Dublin city centre, Powerscourt is a heritage property with a surprising difference and a great family attraction. Powerscourt House was once a beautiful Palladian mansion, home to Lord Powerscourt and his family for over 350 years. Powerscourt offers visitors a sublime blend of formal gardens, sweeping terraces, statues and ornamental lakes with secret hollows, rambling walks and beautiful walled gardens. The winding pathways feel like a secret garden at times, revealing new treasures such as fountains from Paris, gates from Venice and statues from Rome. There are hundreds of different types of plants, flowers and trees in the gardens. Tara's Palace, a museum for children is located in Powerscourt House and is a favourite among visitors.



Travel to **Sallys Gap** which is one of the two east to west passes across the **Wicklow Mountains**. Passing over the Luggula Estate and over Lough Tay and Lough Dan, the Sally Gap offers spectacular views of the Wicklow mountains. The Wicklow Mountains National Park, one of the six national parks in Ireland. The mountains are the highest area of upland in Ireland and are home to some of the highest peaks in the country. The central spine of the Wicklow Mountains is built on a granite base that runs in a line of fine peaks. Otherwise gentle slopes are greatly diversified by expansive corries gouged out of the flanks of the higher summits. South of the Lugnaquilla the range descends into lower, forested hills. Special features in the area to the east of the spine are the glacial valleys that penetrate the mountain range. These valleys contain spectacular waterfalls, stern corries and remnants of primeval woods that once covered most of Ireland.



Travel onwards to **Glendalough** Visitor Centre is dedicated to showcasing the Glendalough monastic site, one of Ireland's most famous tourist attractions. Positioned in a glaciated valley with two lakes, the Glendalough monastic site is a fascinating early Christian settlement in a spectacular natural location, founded by Saint Kevin in the 6th century. The extensive ruins of Glendalough include several early churches, and an impressive 30-metre high round tower. The valley stretches for approximately 3km and contains several areas of great historical interest and beauty. The Upper Lake area was the original site of the monastic settlement and features Reefert Church, Temple-na-Skellig, Saint Kevin's Cell, Saint Kevin's Bed, the Caher and various high crosses.

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Built on the banks of the Avoca River from where it used to draw its power, you'll find a large **Avoca Woolen Mill** Store and Café, and a working hand weaving mill. The Avoca Mill itself dates from 1723, and is said to be Ireland's oldest working mill, and indeed one of the world's oldest. The Avoca throws, rugs and scarves you will find at Avoca's 12 locations around Ireland and shipped all over the world are all woven in the original mill. Initially it took the raw wool from the sheep of the surrounding hills and valleys and through a process of carding, spinning, dyeing and weaving transformed it into clothing and blankets for barter and sale. Visitors are welcome to view the whole weaving process at first hand with a Tour of the Mill. The picturesque village of Avoca itself was the fictional home of BBC TV's Ballykissangel. Overall, the warm and friendly atmosphere in this charming and historical location makes the visit to Avoca a wonderful experience.



### **Day 3 - Unguided Touring Day**

Free Day to explore the many sights and attraction in Dublin City. Take a walk from the Aisling Hotel to the nearby Kilmainham Gaol, Dublin Zoo, Old Jameson Distillery and Guinness Storehouse. With the Luas tram passing outside your hotel be in the city centre in less than 5 minutes to explore Dublins main thoroughfare O'Connell street and the GPO or its many shops. If you want to learn the history of Ireland head south across the river Liffey to the National Museums of Ireland (Archeology & Natural History) as well as checking out the famous Book of Kells at Trinity College. Its all on your doorstep, you have the freedom to see as much or as little as you wan't. If you wan't a guided tour instead than add that option and we will include it in the package.

### **Day 4 - Rail Transport Dublin to Galway**

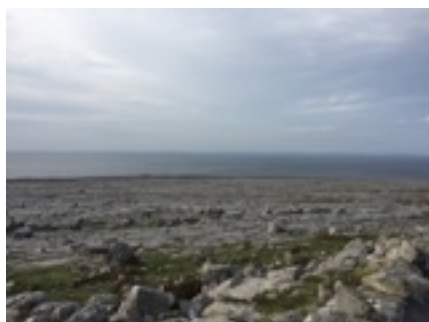
Depart Aisling Hotel and walk to nearby Heuston Train Station (Midday / Early Afternoon Departure) for train to Galway Ceannt Train Station with approximate 3 hour journey. On arrival walk short distance to Meyrick / Park House Hotel.



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## **Day 5 - Touring The Burren & Cliffs of Moher**

Touring The Burren Centre & Perfumery, Poul nabrone Portal Dolmen Tomb, traditional music town of Doolin & Cliffs of Moher.



Travel through the famous rugged Burren landscape and firstly visit the famous **Poul nabrone Portel Dolmen Tomb**. Discover the unique magic of this 'Bhoireann' or 'stony place' region in the **Burren Centre**. This visitor centre lies at the heart of the historic village of Kilfenora. It boasts a fantastic exhibition, an audio-visual theatre, local crafts shop and tea room. The audio visual film, narrated by famous environmentalist Eamon de Buitlear, traces the formation of the Burren 320 million years ago and explains why Alpine, Arctic and Mediterranean plants grow side by side in this unique limestone world. Understand how ancient man left his mark on the landscape in the form of the Dolmen Tombs and burial chambers, which still stand today as stone sentinels to the Burren's heritage. Travel onwards to **Doolin Village** for lunch in one of the many traditional Irish musical pubs. Sample the great atmosphere in this village that is steeped in the history of traditional Irish music.



Travel to Ireland's most visited natural attraction, the **Cliffs of Moher**. They stretch for 8km (5miles), as the crow flies, along the Atlantic coast of County Clare in the west of Ireland and reach 214m (702feet) at their highest point at Knockardakin just north of O'Brien's Tower. At the southern end of the Cliffs of Moher stands Hags Head a natural rocky promontory that resembles a seated woman when viewed from the north. In the ancient Gaelic language, the word Mothar means "ruined fort" and a 1st century BC fort stood where Moher tower now stands. Therefore the Cliffs of Moher means the cliffs of the ruined fort and although there is no trace remaining of this two thousand year old fort it has given name to the cliffs which are visited annually by almost one million visitors. The

Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience is located almost midway along these spectacular cliffs and is home to; an environmentally friendly visitor centre set into the hillside, O'Brien's Tower – a 19th century viewing tower, and 800metres of protected cliff side pathways, viewing areas and steps.

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## **Day 6 - Touring Connemara National Park (Cong to Westport)**

Touring Kylemore Abbey, Connemara National Park, Killary Fjord, Leenane & Quiet Man Museum.

Travel to **Kylemore Abbey** and Victorian Walled Garden in majestic Connemara which is the ideal destination for a day out and will rank as an unforgettable memory. The dramatic landscape and iconic image of a gothic castle reflected in a Connemara lake has made Kylemore Abbey world-famous and it is now the largest tourist attraction in the west of Ireland. The Benedictine nuns invite visitors to experience the Victorian atmosphere of the Abbey's restored rooms, miniature gothic church, head gardener's house and garden boy's house. Learn of the tales of tragedy and romance, the engineering initiatives, model farms, royal visits and the Abbey's former role as a girls boarding school.



**Connemara National Park** covers some 2,957 hectares of scenic mountains, expanses of bogs, heaths, grasslands and woodlands. Some of the Park's mountains, namely Benbaun, Bencullagh, Benbrack and Muckanaght, are part of the famous Twelve Bens or Beanna Beola range. A number of walking trails beginning at the Visitor Centre offer walkers a variety of scenic routes and nature trails through the park. Stunning vistas from the 400-metre high Diamond Hill include the distant islands of Inishbofin, Inishturk and Inishshark, and the turreted Kylemore Abbey. The park is also home to Connemara ponies, red deer and an enormous variety of birdlife, including skylarks, stonechats and peregrine falcons. The Visitor Centre features include exhibitions, the 'Man and the landscape' multi-lingual audio visual show and tea room (seasonal). Entrance to the Visitor Centre is free of charge. A summer programme of guided walks and special events for younger visitors are also available at the Visitor Centre.



Travel onwards to tour the glacial fjord of **Killary** which acts as a natural border between the two bastions of traditional Ireland County Galway and Mayo. It is 16 kilometres long and in the centre over 45 metres deep. It is one of three glacial fjords that exist in Ireland, the others being Lough Swilly and Carlingford Lough. On its northern shore lies the mountain of Mweelrea, Connacht's highest mountain, rising to 814 metres. To the south rise the Maumturk Mountains and the

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Twelve Bens. The area contains some of Ireland's most awe-inspiring and dramatic scenery. The picturesque village of **Leenane** (Leenaun on Irish signposts) sits at the mouth of Killary harbour, almost dwarfed by the Connemara Mountains surrounding it. Leenane became famous in 1989 when it starred in the film adaptation of John B Keane's play *The Field*. Gaynor's pub was the spot where much of the action took place.

In 1951 John Ford's greatest movie '**The Quiet Man**' starring John Wayne, Maureen O'Hara and Barry Fitzgerald was made in the west of Ireland. Much of the film centred around the village of Cong on the Mayo-Galway border. Located by the river at Circular Road, Cong, between actual locations used for the filming, the



thatched cottage's ground floor has been designed as an exact replica of 'White-o-Morn' Cottage. Painsstaking effort has ensured that all the furnishings, artifacts, costumes etc are authentic reproductions. The four poster bed, tables and chairs, treasured by Mary Kate Danaher, thatched roof, emerald green half-door and whitewashed front combine to charm visitors. The Quiet Man Cottage Museum is a novel concept which will give the visitor a total Quiet Man experience as if they were actually on the movie set.

## **Day 7 - Unguided Touring Day**

Free Day to explore the many sights and attraction in Galway. Explore Eyre Square which is on your hotels doorstep. Walk to Galways famous shopping districts of Shop and Quay Street to explore the many artisan and craft shops. Walk to the Latin Quarter to see the famous Spanish Arch and go explore Galways history at the nearby Museum. Much to see and do in Galway City of Tribes.

## **Day 8 - Rail Transport Galway to Dublin**

Depart Meyrick / Park House Hotel and walk to nearby Galway Ceannt Train Station (Midday / Early Afternoon Departure) for train to Heuston Train Station with approximate 2 and a half hour journey time. On arrival walk short distance to Aisling Hotel.



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## **Day 9 - Depart Dublin Airport**

Transfer to Dublin Airport for departure.

## **ADDITIONAL TOURING OPTIONS**

### **Dublin Option 1 - Dublin City Day Tour**

Arrive at Dublin Airport on morning flight arrival to be greeted by your chauffeured tour guide at arrivals in Airport. After a quick freshening up embark on a tour of Dublin City including Trinity College, St Patricks Cathedral, National Museum of Archaeological & History, National Gallery of Ireland, Kilmainham Jail and Guinness Storehouse.



Tour of **Trinity College** which is widely considered to be the most prestigious University in Ireland and amongst the most elite in Europe. It houses The Library and the Book of Kells. Trinity College boasts the most extensive Library in Ireland which is a legal deposit Library for Ireland and The United Kingdom containing over 6.2 million printed volumes and significant quantities of manuscripts. The Book of Kells is the centrepiece of an exhibition which attracts over 500,000 visitors to Trinity College in Dublin City each year. It is Ireland's greatest cultural treasure and the world's most famous medieval manuscript. Written around the year 800 AD, the Book of Kells contains a richly decorated copy of the four gospels in a Latin text.



Tour of the **National Museum of Ireland-Natural History**, on Merrion Street in Dublin, has galleries of animals from Ireland and overseas, as well as geological exhibits from a total collection of about two million scientific specimens. Just two years before Charles Darwin published his famous work, 'The Origin of Species', the Natural History Museum in Merrion Street was opened to the public for the first time in 1857. Now, as then, it educates and inspires, leaving us feeling small and humbled amidst the vast and wondrous diversity of life on display. Tour of the **National Museum of Ireland - Archaeology**, on Kildare Street in Dublin, which first opened its doors in 1890 and since then it has been filling in the blanks for us through its extensive archaeological collections. Take time at The Treasury which features outstanding examples of Celtic and Medieval art, such as the famous Ardagh Chalice, the Tara Brooch and the Derrynaflan Hoard. Gaze in

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wonder at the finest collection of prehistoric gold artefacts in Europe, which is to be found in Or, Ireland's Gold. Ramble through prehistoric Ireland and experience life at the same time of the Vikings in Viking Age Ireland. Medieval Ireland 1150-1550, documents life in Ireland in the age of cathedrals, monasteries and castles.



Tour of **Saint Patrick's Cathedral** which has been part of Ireland's history for over 800 years and today is one of the most popular visitor attractions in Dublin. Built in honour of Ireland's patron saint between 1220 and 1260 Saint Patrick's Cathedral offers visitors a rich and compelling cultural experience and is one of the few buildings left from medieval Dublin. It is the National Cathedral of the Church of Ireland and is the largest Cathedral in the country. Guided tours of the Cathedral happen regularly throughout the day or a free App can be used for self-guide purpose.

Tour of the **National Gallery of Ireland** in Dublin boasts some 2,500 paintings and approximately 10,000 other works in different media including water-colours, drawings, prints and sculpture. Every major European school of painting is extensively represented. It also houses a renowned collection of Irish paintings, the majority of which are on permanent display. The gallery was established by an Act of Parliament in 1854 and first opened its doors to the public in January 1864.



Travel along the scenic coastal drive of **Dun Laoighaire to Dalkey**, with stunning views of Dun Laoighaire Harbour, Bray Head, Dalkey Island and Sorrento Terrace. Travel to tour **Dalkey Castle** in Dublin which includes many living history actors who show visitors skills and cultural features from the 1500s in Ireland – such as an archer shooting a longbow, a cook making hedgehog pie and a barber surgeon offering haircuts. Panoramic views of sea and mountains can be seen from the castle battlements. Visitors can also explore the early Christian church and graveyard, dedicated to St. Begnet. An interactive timeline is available, beginning from early Christian through Viking, Medieval, Victorian and modern times in Dalkey. The area also features a Writers' Gallery with literary and creative connections to Joyce, Beckett, Bono and Maeve Binchy.



Travel to **Killiney** one of Dublin and Ireland's richest suburbs. View the homes at the most exclusive address in Dublin, Vico Road, including Ireland's most famous celebrities Enya, U2's Bono and The Edge. Killiney Hill and Dalkey Hill form part of Killiney Hill Park, a small public park overlooking both Dalkey and Killiney villages. The Park was dedicated to public use in 1887 by Prince Albert Victor of Wales, in memory of Queen Victoria's Jubilee, and called Victoria Hill. Killiney Hill is a popular destination for walkers and hikers availing of the spectacular views, over the surrounding areas.

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## **Dublin Option 2 - Studs & Castle Tour**

Touring National Stud & Japanese Gardens, Rock of Cashel, Kilkenny Medieval City & Kilkenny Castle.

The **Irish National Stud** and Gardens symbolises all that is great about County Kildare, the beating heart of Ireland's thoroughbred horse industry. It is the home of equine royalty, immaculately-bred stallions who can be seen and admired alongside protective mares, frolicking foals and athletic yearlings. The Irish National Stud and Gardens in Tully is the only stud farm in Ireland open to the public and offering daily tours. Within the grounds are the world-famous



**Japanese Gardens**, the Horse Museum and St Fiachra's Garden, created to

celebrate the Millennium. Visit the Japanese Gardens for a relaxing stroll—created between the years 1906 and 1910, they were laid out by Japanese craftsman Tassa Eida and his son Minoru. The gardens trace the passage of a soul from birth to death and beyond, at the same time providing a meeting place for the cultures of East and West. The Horse Museum brings the nation's love affair with horses to life and displays the skeleton of Arkle, a famous Irish Thoroughbred racehorse. The beautifully designed St Fiachra's Garden, it commemorates the patron saint of gardeners St Fiachra.



Depart Dublin and travel via the **Rock of Cashel** for a tour. The Rock of Cashel is one of Ireland's most visited sites, and is a spectacular and archaeological site. A collection of medieval ecclesiastical buildings set on an outcrop of limestone in the Golden Vale. The 12th-century round tower is of the oldest surviving building on the Rock, also include a high cross, and the ruins Romanesque chapel - Cormac's Chapel is one of the earliest, and finest churches built in the Romanesque style. The 13th-century Gothic cathedral is a large cruciform Gothic church without aisles built between 1230 and 1270. Also a 15th-century castle and the Hall of the Vicars is the entry point to the ecclesiastical enclosure. The Hall houses the museum where the

original Cross of St. Patrick can be found.

The magnificent **Kilkenny Castle** overlooks the River Nore and has guarded this important river crossing for more than 900 years. The gardens, with extensive woodland paths, rose garden and ornamental lake, create the setting for a beautiful stroll. Two wings of the castle have been restored to their 19th Century splendour and include a library, drawing room and the noted Long Gallery. A suite of former servants rooms now houses the Butler Art Gallery, which mounts frequently changing exhibitions of contemporary art. The Parade Tower is the Castle's conference venue.



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## **Dublin Option 3 - Belfast Day Tour**

Touring Titanic Experience, & Black Taxi Political Tour.

Travel to onwards to Belfast. The **Titanic Experience** is a 'must see' on any trip to Belfast and has become the most popular tourist attraction in Northern Ireland and one of the top attractions in Ireland. Housed in an iconic, six-floor building, Titanic Belfast is located in the heart of Belfast, right beside the historic site of this world-famous ship's construction. The Titanic experience takes you through nine galleries, telling the story of RMS Titanic, from her conception in Belfast in the early 1900s, through her construction and launch, to her famous maiden voyage and tragic end. The galleries are innovative and interactive with many features including diving to the depth of the ocean to explore where RMS Titanic now rests. The Titanic story is told at Titanic Belfast in a fresh and insightful way. Visitors can now also experience three new galleries, which capture the excitement of launch day, as well as The Maiden Voyage gallery, which transports visitors from four embarkation ports, Belfast, Southampton, Cherbourg and Queenstown (now known as Cobh) to Titanic's deck promenade. Guests can not only see and hear the ocean and feel the ships engines rumbling on board at the Palm Court Café but can also meet Fredrick Dent Ray, a dining room steward and survivor, utilising technology used in Disneyland's Haunted Mansion and Universal Studios Florida's Hogwarts Express attraction. The Maiden Voyage gallery also includes an original first class luncheon menu dated April 14, 1912, as well as the last letter ever to be written on board the Titanic.



On a special Black Taxi **Political Tour** you will visit the Falls Road and Shankill Road where you will learn of the history of conflict between the two communities and witness the Peaceline wall which divides the two.



Described by the Independent Newspaper as 'the world's greatest open air art gallery' where they use the political wall murals to relate events from a historical perspective and where you can add your message to the peace wall. The enthusiastic and knowledgeable guides will explain the many murals which are to be seen on the tours as well as many sites which have played important roles in the political history of Belfast. The guides are happy to cater the tour to your specification and will answer any question you may have for them.

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## **Dublin Option 4 - Irish Whiskey & Brewery Tours**

Touring Kilbeggan Distillery, Tullamore D.E.W. Distillery, Jameson Distillery and Guinness Storehouse.

Travel to the **Kilbeggan Distillery** in County Westmeath, which is the oldest distillery in the world, dating back to 1757. A trip to this well-known County Westmeath attraction will enable you to discover the history of authentic artisan Irish whiskey, as well as sample it for yourself. Start your guided tour back in 1757 and find out how Irish whiskey was made in decades past. Discover the families that owned the distillery and the importance the local community had on the brand you see today. Visitors to the Kilbeggan Distillery Experience will learn about the traditional methods of mashing in oak mash tuns, fermenting in Oregon pine vats and see the new Kilbeggan malt spirit flowing from ancient pot stills. The original waterwheel which once powered the whole distillery is still on show today. A stroll across the courtyard takes you to the present day, where whiskey is still being produced using ancient traditions, passed on from generation to generation. The Kilbeggan Whiskey Bar is worth a visit to browse the complete range of whiskeys.



Travel to see one of County Offaly's most famous exports is **Tullamore D.E.W.**, a blended Irish whiskey originally produced by William Grant & Sons in Tullamore. While production was moved to Midleton, County Cork in the 1950s, Tullamore has recently seen the establishment of a new Tullamore distillery and state-of-the-art visitor centre. For anyone interested in Irish whiskey, a tour of Tullamore D.E.W. Visitor Centre takes in every step of the artisan craft of whiskey making, illustrated with audiovisual media and the know-how of expert guides. Visitors on the tour through Distillery House will meet the Tullamore D.E.W. Distillery Ambassador, explore the production process from still house to warehouse and even create their own unique blend of whiskey in the blending room. After distillery tour return to Dublin.



Since John Jameson's brave first steps into this building in 1780, Jameson have been focused on his ambition to create unforgettable experiences (along with great whiskey, of course). The new look **Jameson Distillery**



Bow St. carries on this ambition through three fully guided experiences: Bow St. Experience, The Whiskey Makers, and The Whiskey Shakers - all of which have a firm focus on immersive storytelling. You'll be invited to touch, smell, and most importantly, taste Jameson in the original Bow St. Distillery buildings. An exciting part of their Whiskey Makers & Whiskey Shakers experiences is a visit to their live Maturation Warehouse, where you'll get to taste Jameson straight from the barrel. The only way to get closer to the source would be to have John Jameson guide you through the distillery himself.

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Tour of the **Guinness Storehouse** located in the heart of the St James's Gate Brewery, which has been home to the world famous stout since 1759. Ireland's number one International Visitor Attraction, the Guinness Storehouse is the Home of Guinness, where you will discover what goes into the making of each and every pint, and learn about the incredible brand history stretching over 250 years. The highlight for many visitors is the Gravity Bar, symbolically the 'Head of the Pint", where visitors can enjoy unparalleled panoramic views of Dublin city – views that are all the better with a complimentary pint in hand.



## **Galway Option 1 - Touring Clonmacnoise, Strokestown & Lake District**

Touring Clonmacnoise, Strokestown House, National Famine Museum & Shannon Lake District.

Travel to one of the most famous monastic sites in Ireland, **Clonmacnoise** located along the River Shannon near the village of Shannonbridge, Co Offaly. It became a world-renowned centre for learning in the 9th century and was visited by Pope John Paul II. A walk amongst the peaceful stone ruins of this famous place will



conjure images of the saints and scholars of Ireland's renowned Golden Age of learning. Founded by St Ciaran in the mid-6th century, it became a great centre of religion and learning, visited by scholars from all over the world. Many historical manuscripts, including the 11th century Annals of Tighernach and the 12th century Book of the Dun Cow, were written here. The beautifully preserved structures of Clonmacnoise Cathedral, Temple Doolin, Temple Hurpan and Temple Melaghlin will impress and leave those who visit Clonmacnoise with an authentic sense of the history of Ireland.

Travel to the magnificent **Strokestown Park House**, a Georgian Palladian mansion preserved with its original furnishings and fabrics, which can be seen daily by guided tour. The House was the family home of the Pakenham Mahon family and is built on the site of the 16th century castle, home of The O Conor Roe Gaelic Chieftains. The Landlord Major Denis Mahon was assassinated in November 1847 at the height of The Great Famine of Ireland and it is fitting that The **Irish National Famine Museum** was established at Strokestown Park in 1994 using the unique original documents which came to light during the restoration of The House. The six acre walled pleasure gardens have been restored to their original splendour and give an insight into horticultural design and architecture from the 1740's to the present day. The Irish National Famine Museum located in the Stable Yards tells a different story and highlights the parallels between a tragic chapter of Irish History and contemporary global hunger. The Great Irish famine of the



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1840's is now regarded as the single greatest social disaster of 19th century Europe. Between 1845 and 1850, when blight devastated the potato crop, in excess of two million people – almost one-quarter of the entire population – either died or emigrated. Within a short time the visitor has been brought on a journey through Irish History, the good and the bad, from Ireland in the 1600's, right up to the present day.

The River Shannon is the largest river in Ireland and Great Britain combined. Its upper **Lake District** offers spectacular scenery as well activities. Travel to the picturesque Carrick on Shannon which as its name



suggests is on the river Shannon. Travel along the great river to Lough Key Forrest Park. Comprising some 350 hectares of mixed woodland, a lake and a number of islands, Lough Key Forest Park is one of Ireland's most extensive and picturesque forest parks in Ireland. The visitor centre is the gateway to the parkland and forest at Lough Key. Environmental sustainability and energy efficiency are at the heart of its design and facilities including the tree canopy trail, Boda Borg Challenge and the adventure play kingdom.

## **Galway Option 2 - Touring Aran Islands**

Touring the Bay Coast of the Aran Islands.

Depart Galway and embark on your Wild Atlantic Way scenic drive of the Bay Coast travelling to the port of Ros a'Mhíllín for boat cruise to the **Aran Islands**. In Galway Bay lie three rocky limestone outcrops that make up the Aran Islands. They are a bastion of traditional language, culture and music, unique in their geology and archaeology and unrivalled in their potent sense of history. Each of the three islands, Inis Mór, Inis Meáin and Inis Oírr have their own distinct atmosphere and character, but the dramatic landscapes and endless sea form



a backdrop to a labyrinth of meandering stone walls and tiny, tightly packed fields. In between, a network of narrow winding roads and grassy lanes sweep from pristine beaches and craggy shores to the dizzying cliffs that mark the edge of Europe. The islands have lured legions of writers, artists and visitors over the centuries, their enigmatic ancient monuments, early Christian remains, holy wells and historic lighthouses adding to their sense of timelessness and mystery. Upon arrival back on the mainland be brought straight back to your hotel.

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### **Terms & Conditions**

Costs may fluctuate upon the time of year and availability cannot be guaranteed on all accommodations.

Tour package covers all transport costs (private guided day tours, airport transfers & rail tickets)

It is a requirement that there is a minimum of 2 days private guided touring at each region (4 in total for the tour).

25% Deposit required to secure the booking of Accommodation and Transport. Non refundable upon payment.

Full payment of tour required 1 month in advance of the tour date. Non refundable upon payment.

Please note Accommodation includes Bed & Breakfast only.

All lunch and evening meals are not included, but the finalised itinerary will have suggested local restaurants.

Activity costs are not included unless requested.

It is advised to take out travel insurance to cover every eventuality.

Tips are not included but encouraged.

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